

USSN 09/826,355  
Art unit 2654  
Examiner Shortledge, T.

Claim 1 also states 'generating a database of inference rules comprising pair of semantically equivalent paths by associating, in a computer, paths with each other based on a similarity measure between the paths.' Therefore an inference rule relates two semantically equivalent paths. In contrast, Delugach et al uses a single path to infer the relationship between two entities or concepts. Delugach et al may for example infer smoke from the path "[ACTIVITY] → produce → [ENTITY]," and an instance of activity, fire, but this does not relate pairs of semantically equivalent paths since there is only one path. Therefore, the inference rules referred to in claim 1 are completely different from the inference rules of Delugach et al.

Furthermore, claim 1 is concerned with the automatic discovery of these inference rules from text, and generating a database of inference rules, whereas Delugach et al only deals with the use of the inference rules (paths). The paths themselves are manually specified in SQL.

Therefore, Delugach et al cannot anticipate claim 1, and Delugach et al is so different from claim 1 that Delugach et al cannot render any of the claims obvious. Nothing in Delugach et al suggests any of the elements of claim 1, and neither does the applicants' prior art or Zadrozny et al supply the relevant teaching. All the other claims depend on claim 1 and are therefore patentable.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections, and allowance of the claims, is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted, and certified as being faxed to the USPTO on Oct. 28/05.

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